

From: Atlas Int'l
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/25/02 3:12pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

hello--

i do not have the time in my busy schedule to pen my objections to every single point of the microsoft settlement. suffice to say that this farce of a settlement proposal would be nothing short of comical if it were not for the fact that you (the DOJ) are actually considering it.

the whole point of the original lawsuit centered around the 'lockin' principle, whereby an entity in essence infects a host (computer user) so profoundly with its product (windows and other microsoft software) that migration to a to a more effective, cheaper, more efficient, or otherwise better system becomes economically and/or logistically unfeasible.

any proposal by microsoft to not only perpetuate its 'lockin' practices, but to further press them into areas (education) where it has not been fully implemented is laughable.

the core of the 'lockin' problem lies in the fact that microsoft will not divulge information (software APIs) needed by competitors to produce products capable of nominal performance on the same hardware.

there is a similar scenario in the microprocessor production industry between AMD, Intel, Cyrix and other chip makers. through intensive and carefully scrutinized licensing agreements, this area has remained free from the strong-armed tactics we see microsoft employ (which Intel would be quite happy to implement ala microsoft--were it not for these agreements). this relationship between microprocessor producers did not happen by accident. it has been the result of the annual multi \$million legal efforts put out by the standards boards and involved companies.

this is the sort of action that needs to be taken with microsoft. simply allowing microsoft to pass out software which will further their dominance in established markets (and incidently doesnt cost them a thing---what's a cd cost \$.02?) and improve dominance in other markets will not solve a thing.

please, for the love of America FORCE this bully of a corporation to play by the same rules as the rest of us.

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